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Applicant(s): Bonnie R. Hames)

Serial No.: 10/031,208)

PCT Patent Application

No.: PCT/US01/11806

Filing Date: May 24, 2002)

Title: Phenol Removal Pretreatment
Process)

Atty Dkt. No.: NREL 98-21


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

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- 1) Preliminary Amendment [5 pages]
- 2) Self-Address Postcard Receipt

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Brenda E. Brantley
Senior Patent Administrator

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
1617 Cole Blvd.
Golden, CO 80401
303/384-7572
Fax No. 303/384-7499



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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
BOX PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, and prior to taking this application up for examination on the merits, please amend the claims as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3 and 7 without prejudice.

1. (Amended) A process for [removing] selective adsorption of biomass derived phenols selected from the group consisting of guaiacol, syringol, isolugenol, vanillin, and lignin from [an aqueous solution] a biomass hydrolysate medium comprising [the steps of]:

- (a) contacting a mixture comprising the[solution] hydrolysate medium and a metal oxide;
- (b) forming a phenols compound metal oxide complex;

(c) removing the phenols metal oxide complex from the mixture[.] ; said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, vanadium oxide, and zirconium oxide.

6. (Amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising regenerating the metal oxide after removing the phenols metal oxide complex from the mixture.